

operation successfully in a case of irremediable obstruction of the duct, and another case had also been reported from America.—*British Medical Journal*, 1889, November 30.

## GENITO-URINARY ORGANS.

**I. On the Results of the Treatment of Hydrocele.** By Dr. E. VORWINKEL (HEIDELBERG). This article covers the cases, 90 in number, at Czerny's clinic, from 1878 to 1887 inclusive. These hospital cases are each briefly described. Then the cause and seat of the disease, the kind of operation, manner of healing, are considered, and at the end tabulated. The cases of haematocele and spermatocele occurring during the same period are also included, as their treatment is similar.

*A.* Cases treated by simple puncture, 2. One was a probably congenital hydrocele and the other a traumatic haematocele. Both were cured. This plan he has used largely in out-patient department.

*B.* Cases treated by puncture and subsequent injection of iodine solution, 48. Duration of cure 2 to 14 days (averaging 7 to 8). Rise of temperature occurred in several cases, but never suppuration. Of late he practices Englisch's method of first injecting 2% carbolic or  $1/20\%$  sublimate solution, with the result of usually preventing any fever. It is known that in only 6 of the 32 cases did a relapse occur (81 $\frac{1}{4}\%$  completely cured).

*C.* Treated by puncture and injection of other solutions than iodine, 3 cases. Carbolic or sublimate solutions, or both, were here used with 1 satisfactory cure.

*D.* In which the radical operation of Volkmann was undertaken, 25. Duration of cure 10 to 49 days (average 23). Complete absence of fever in 13; uninterrupted healing of wound in 18; no relapse in 17 (of 18 known cases, or 94.5%).

*E.* In which Bergmann's total extirpation of the tunica vaginalis was undertaken, 3. Uninterrupted cures, 2 at least remaining free from relapse.

*F.* In which various modifications of the radical operation were attempted, 5; 1 was a complication with omental hernia; in another

a calcified membrane was removed; another was a multilocular cyst, etc.

*G.* In which castration was performed, 4.

In only 20 cases (22.3%) was any cause stated; trauma direct or indirect in 15½%; gonorrhœa in 5½%; uncertain, 1 case. This is a smaller proportion than that found by Volkmann, Bardeleben, Kocher, etc.

In 29 of 86 cases (33.7%) the trouble was on the left side; in 48 (55.8%) on the right, and in 9 (10.4%) bilateral. Previous large statistics give the two sides as about equal.

Of 83 cases 19 were first noticed from sixteenth to twentieth year (puberty); next in frequency comes the first year (hydrocele congenita).

The results of radical operations, of whatever kind, are materially better than those of puncture with subsequent injection. The only disadvantage is the longer duration of cure and, hence, inability of patient to follow his calling. Since, however, the results of puncture and injection are absolutely not bad, and this kind of operation is certainly far less dangerous to the patient, since his cases show that the most scrupulous antisepsis and continuous watching of the patient do not exclude unpleasant complications after the radical operation, he accepts unreservedly the conclusions drawn by Kocher from his collections. It cannot be taken as an unconditional dictum that no one should undertake the radical operation instead of the method of injection, unless an absolutely certain antiseptic course from beginning to end is guaranteed. On the other hand, it is not to be denied that where the course runs completely aseptic the antiseptic incision or excision leads in the surest way to a cure. Hence, the radical operation is admissible in well arranged institutions in preference to injection, whilst in private practice the latter must be adhered to.—*Buns' Beitrage z. klin. Chirg.*, 1889, bd. iv, hft. ii.

**II. Nephrectomy in Unilaterally Diseased Horseshoe-Kidney.** By PROFESSOR SOCIN (Basle). Woman, æt. 47 years. Present trouble began at the age of 17 years. Periodic attacks of pain and swelling in right hypochondrium. Great increase of trouble since